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2 April 1948

DRAFT MEMO TO THE IAC MEMBERS

Subject: NIS Program

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 NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
 AUTH: 00 7-2
 2:5 NOV 1990

1. Reference is made to the memorandum dated March 4 from the Director of Central Intelligence concerning the final report of the ad hoc committee on the NIS program and to the replies received from the IAC members.

2. It will be recalled that this NIS program was initiated under IAB No. 1 and has more recently been considered under NSCID No. 3. When first contemplated, it was felt strongly by most of the IAB members that such a basic intelligence effort was necessary and that a unified system would save the duplication then taking place, especially in the Military Departments.

3. The ad hoc committee has exhaustively studied this matter and has pointed out in paragraph 7f, the last paragraph of its report dated February 20, that it considers it is very important to set a date for the completion of these studies in accordance with the JCS priority list and feels that reallocation of funds and personnel should be effected to accomplish this purpose. It is a peace-time program and will provide basic data of great importance for future estimates.

4. It is hoped, therefore, that the IAC chiefs will strongly support this program in realigning personnel as may be necessary, and in real-locating funds, maybe from the recently appropriated National Defense funds or through a deficiency appropriation, since the lack of funds is an apparent block to completion of this program in at least two of the agencies. If funds and personnel are not available to start this program in the immediate future and to carry it through to completion within the next 2-4 years, it should not be undertaken at all as tardy half measures would be worse than none.

5. If necessary, it is thought that this matter should be taken up with the Secretaries of the Departments in their function as members of the National Security Council. So it is suggested that the IAC members meet on _____ at _____ to discuss this matter in Room _____.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Subject: NIS Program

1. Yesterday we had a talk with [REDACTED] of ORE who has been Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee setting up the program for the National Intelligence Surveys. A reply has not yet been received from the Air Forces, but they have indicated orally that they will go along with the memo of March 4 transmitting the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and the bulky outline of the NIS.

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2. The Navy's reply, however, said that they could not start on this matter until the Fiscal year 1950 and State Department indicated that its personnel was too busy to give attention to this matter so did not wish to set a date for completion.

3. According to [REDACTED] that will negate the whole project because the theory of most of them is that this basic intelligence must be produced as a basis for future estimates. His theory is that if any of the departments really wish to do this they can reallocate some of their personnel and funds. He thought that maybe the Navy Department could obtain funds from the new Defense Appropriation and he thought State might be persuaded to pay more attention to this matter.


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4. Personally, I think State has most of the information at its fingertips if it wishes to compile it, maybe not in Armstrong's office, but in the Geographic offices and Economic office.

5. I believe there are 75 studies to be made in accordance with the JCS priority outline of the world-wide l10, so if Navy does not start on them until the Fiscal Year 1950 they will not be finished by 1952 and if State does only half a dozen a year it will take ten years for them to get in their share. I understand that of the whole program a rough estimate of the production is Army - 40%; State 25%; Navy 15-20%; Air 5%; and the rest CIA. At the ad hoc level everybody is convinced of its urgency and importance, but this idea apparently has not yet been put across to Admiral Inglis and Mr. Armstrong.

6. You may, therefore, wish to send out a memo similar to the attached and to call an IAC meeting to emphasize the importance of this program. Or, since some of the members are willing to go along, you may wish to talk it over merely with Navy and State.

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NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2


PRESCOTT CHILDS
Chief, ICAPS

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